

Serial No. 10/721,738
Amdt. Dated January 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 24, 2004

Docket No. K-0582

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 5-9 are amended, and new claims 10-25 are added. It is believed no new matter is introduced into the application. Support for the claims can be found throughout the original specification, including the claims and the drawings originally filed, for example, paragraphs 0026 and 0027 on pages 7 and 8, and Figures 4-6. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, at page 2, rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. By this Amendment, the claims have been amended to obviate the rejection.

The Office Action also alleges that the specification does not include a clear teaching of first and second ends on the first and second interlocking means. It is respectfully submitted that support for these features can be found throughout the specification. For example, a description of these features can be found in the Abstract, and at paragraph 0013, bridging pages 4 and 5. Further, Figure 4, for example, shows a first connector 66 having a first end (unnumbered) shown as a lower end from which first protrusions 66b project, and a second end (unnumbered) shown as an upper end from which a first flange 66a projects. Figure 4 also shows a second connector 68 having a first end (unnumbered) shown as an upper end from which second protrusions 68a project, and a second end (unnumbered) shown as a lower end from which a second flange 68b end supports 68d project.

Serial No. 10/721,738
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Docket No. K-0582

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection under §112 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, at page 4, rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Campagnolo et al. (hereinafter “Campagnolo”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a nozzle assembly of a dishwasher. Claim 1 recites a main nozzle, an auxiliary nozzle, a first interlocking means for coupling with a coupling hole of the main nozzle and a second interlocking means for coupling with a coupling hole of the auxiliary nozzle. Claim 1 further recites that the second interlocking means is configured to be disposed in both the auxiliary nozzle and the main nozzle in an assembled configuration.

Campagnolo discloses a rotating agitator 1 for a dishwasher. Campagnolo discloses that a rotor 8 may be mounted on an end of the agitator. The rotor 8 is mounted on the agitator by a substantially cylindrical tube 6. Specifically, the rotor 8 is rotatably journaled on the free end of the tube 6 using engaging teeth 14 on the tube 6.

The Office Action indicates that the tube 6 corresponds to the claimed first interlocking means, and that the rotor 8 corresponds to both the claimed second interlocking means and the claimed auxiliary nozzle. Under this interpretation, Campagnolo fails to disclose or suggest that the second interlocking means (in this case, the rotor 8) is disposed in both the auxiliary nozzle and the main nozzle in an assembled configuration. Therefore, claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-9 ultimately depend from claim 1 and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons,

Serial No. 10/721,738
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Docket No. K-0582

as well as additional patentable features recited therein and the combinations thereof.
Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, new claims 10-25 are added to the application. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 10-25 are allowable for reasons similar to those given above, and for the additional features they recite.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Garth D. Richmond, at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Serial No. 10/721,738
Amtd. Dated January 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 24, 2004

Docket No. K-0582

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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